

Approved May 6, 2010

## SUMMARIZED MEETING MINUTES



### City of Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission Regular Meeting

5:00 p.m., Monday, April 5, 2010  
Granite Reef Senior Center, Room 7  
1700 N. Granite Reef Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

Present: Chairperson Gerald Miller  
Vice-Chairperson Howard Myers  
Commissioners Deke Joralmon  
Commissioner Rand Hubbell  
Commissioner Fred Klein  
Commissioner Carla  
Commissioner BJ Heggli  
Commissioner Susan Wheeler  
Commissioner Linda Whitehead (arrived at 6:35 p.m. after attending the General Plan Meeting)

Absent: Commissioner Melinda Gulick

Staff Present: Bill Murphy  
Scott Hamilton  
Claire Miller  
Robin Schweitzer  
Kroy Ekblaw (arrived at 5:41 p.m.)

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

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## **2. ROLL CALL**

A formal roll call was conducted confirming members present as stated above.

## **3. MOMENT OF SILENCE**

## **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

## **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The commission will delay the approval of the joint meeting minutes with Fountain Hills held on March 4, 2010, until the next meeting, due to the fact that it was not on the agenda and therefore action cannot be taken.

There was a discussion of the Summarized Minutes.

Staff was asked if it was indeed a cost savings to do the minutes this way. Mr. Murphy responded that this is how the City Council minutes are recorded, and that the Granicus method allows you to go online and listen to the dialogue. Mr. Murphy further explained that as a city, this is being evaluated as a cost savings from the fact that others are using it, such as the City Clerk's office and Planning, with the multiple commissions that they have. He also explained that AVTranz was not budgeted into the next fiscal year, but he would pass on the Commissioners' opinions to internal staff.

**Motion by Commissioner Hubbell, second by Vice-Chairperson Myers to accept the summarized regular meeting minutes of the March 4, 2010, MSPC meeting.**

**Motion passed unanimously with a vote of 8 to 0. (Commissioner Whitehead was not present for the vote.)**

## **6. AGENDA MANAGEMENT**

Discussion about how to do a better job of managing agenda for the meeting and keep the meeting times more tractable than they have been in the past.

Chair Miller commented that they could do a better job of prioritizing their agenda. Rather than adopting something formal, they will try to do a better job of controlling and disciplining themselves.

## **7. UPDATE FROM McDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY**

Ruthie Carll provided a review and summary of the upcoming Steward Training.

## **8. COMMITTEE UPDATES AND ACTIONS**

Planning Committee – Committee Chair Howard Myers reported that he had sent his information on the Management Plan to staff for review prior to presenting it to the commission.

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Desert Discovery Task Force (DDTF) – Task Force Chair BJ Heggli reported on the status of the project and scheduled upcoming meeting.

A discussion ensued with the following information being covered: When the task force would basically end, how to have questions addressed, and that recommendations to City council will go through the MSPC and TDC commissions.

Scottsdale's General Plan: Commissioner Whitehead provided updates on the following:

Transportation plans in the Dynamite Road area –two issues have arisen regarding a land bridge across Dynamite and the possibility of minimizing road crossings through the Preserve.

General Policy for development densities near the Preserve – Commissioner Whitehead suggested that the MSPC recommend that a statement to support the lowest possible density and residential development in areas in close proximity to the Preserve be included in the General Plan.

**Motion by Commissioner Whitehead, second by Fred Klein, that the MSPC recommend inclusion of the following wording the Land Use Element of the General Plan Update: Support the General Plan Land Use category of Rural Neighborhoods, and the lowest possible residential density, in areas adjacent to the Preserve to provide appropriate transition and maintain wildlife corridors.**

**Motion passed unanimously with a vote of nine (9) – zero (0).**

Promotions Committee - Commissioner Whitehead reported that the McDowell Sonoran Preserve now had a link on the front page of the city's website. The brochure has been finalized. The Preserve will have a ½ page ad in the Parks and Recreation Brochure, which reaches 50 – 60,000 people. The LEED video is completed.

## **9. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR LAND ACQUISITION**

Mr. Ekblaw outlined an addendum cover to the report they did last year for the Council with the commission's four priorities identified:

1. Acquisition of the 400 acres has been completed
2. Move forward with acquisition of additional state lands
  - a. Initiated the application to proceed with parcel 1A – in progress
  - b. Pursue an application with the state for the parcels that would connect the north and the south areas, approximately 1,700 acres
  - c. Pursue remaining matching grant funds
3. Advocate state land reform
4. Initiate a community dialogue to see if there is additional support for additional funding for additional Preserve acquisitions.

Mr. Ekblaw noted that a complete report will be sent before the Commission's next meeting.

## **10. PRESERVE REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS – Kroy Ekblaw and Bill Murphy**

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Preserve Land Policy and Acquisition – Kroy Ekblaw provided updates on the following:

Status of discussions with the State Land Department, State Trust Land Reform, and State Parks

Possible connecting trail to the Fountain Hills Preserve  
CIP for 2010/2011 and 2011/2012  
History Project

Financial Question Responses – Mr. Ekblaw responded to questions that the Commission had had made at the March 5, 2010, Commission meeting:

1. Wages and CPM allocations
2. Car allowance and mileage for mileage reimbursed to the project manager for the Gateway for inspection trips
3. Water charge – that was the water resources development fees for the Gateway.

Commissioner Wheeler requested a detailed accounting of how that was broken down. Mr. Ekblaw responded in the affirmative.

4. Minor equipment – related to the Gateway for miscellaneous furniture, cabinets, fixtures for the building within the Gateway access area.
5. Damage claims – Taxable costs awarded by the judge in the Toll Brothers case.
6. Meeting, refreshment, supplies – Cost of lunch for 19 attendees that were going through witness preparation for the Toll Brothers issue.
7. Advertising - \$5,000 paid to the State Land Department as part of the 400 acres acquisition. \$480 was a number of miscellaneous charges paid to the Tribune and Republic for notices.

Preserve Operations – Bill Murphy provided updates on the following:

Dust Control at Trailheads – Mr. Murphy reported that Scott Hamilton is working with the contractors on the dust control issues at the Gateway.

Cataloging Plants in Preserve – Mr. Murphy reported that the future approach to university proposals is being tabled until the management plan is completed.

Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> for Commission steward training session with McDowell Sonoran Conservancy – Mr. Murphy confirmed a 9:00 a.m. starting time, at the Gateway.

Preserve Operations budget issues for 2010-2011 - Mr. Murphy reported that what was in the budget for the Preserve were mainly promotional funding for brochures, professional services for

repair work on the Sunrise Trail, some maintenance items. The operating budget is a little over \$100,000.

Tom's Thumb Trailhead Status – Scott Hamilton provided an update as follows: Staff has completed the preliminary plan; DR submittal is scheduled for end of April or beginning of May; Open House is targeted for sometime in May; start construction the end of this year, with a target opening of fall 2011.

Response to questions regarding participant numbers at Challenge – Mr. Murphy informed the commission he would send out the report to them.

## **11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

## **12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### Tentative items for May 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Naming Recognition

Proposed Preserve Research Project?

McDowell Sonoran Preserve Month Options

Fountain Hills Trail Connections Options – Staff Review Update

Strategic Plan for Land Acquisitions – Update

Transportation Plans in the Dynamite Area

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorelei Oien  
Administrative Secretary

Meets established criteria,  
Kroy Ekblaw  
Preserve Director

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